agent. Alternatively, the implantable structural element may simply be an implantable article that serves the single function of acting as a time-release carrier for the bioactive agent. --

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 and 11.

Please amend claims 2-10 and 12-14 to appear as shown below.

Please add claims 15-25 to appear as shown below.

2. (Amended) The implantable body according to Claim 15, wherein the structural body further comprises an endoluminal stent being composed of a plurality of interconnected individual structural elements, each of the plurality of interconnected individual structural elements having the at least one internal cavity, the at least one of a plurality of openings and the at least one bioactive agent therein.

3. (Amended) The implantable body according to Claim 15, wherein the structural body further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, vanadium, aluminum, nickel, tantalum, zirconium, chromium, silver, gold, silicon, magnesium, niobium, scandium, platinum, cobalt, palladium, manganese, molybdenum and alloys thereof, including zirconium-titanium-tantalum alloys, nitinol, and stainless steel.

4. (Amended) The implantable body according to Claim 15, wherein the bioactive agent further comprises a pharmacologically active agent selected from the group consisting of antibiotic drugs, antiviral drugs, neoplastic agents, steroids, fibronectin, anti-clotting drugs, anti-platelet function drugs, drugs which prevent smooth muscle cell growth on inner surface wall of vessel, heparin, heparin fragments, aspirin, coumadin, tissue plasminogen activator, urokinase, hirudin, streptokinase, antiproliferative agents, methotrexate, cisplatin, fluorouracil, adriamycin), antioxidant agents, ascorbic acid, beta carotene, vitamin E, antimetabolites, thromboxane inhibitors, non-steroidal and steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, immunosuppresents, rapomycin, beta and calcium channel blockers, genetic materials including DNA and RNA fragments, complete expression genes, antibodies, lymphokines, growth factors, vascular growth factor,

fibroblast growth factor, prostaglandins, leukotrienes, laminin, elastin, collagen, nitric oxide, and integrins.

5. (Amended) An endoluminal stent, comprising:

a tubular member having a three-dimensional conformation and a central lumen passing longitudinally through the tubular member and open at opposing ends of the tubular member,

a luminal surface and an abluminal surface and a wall thickness defined therebetween,

a plurality of independent internal cavities residing within the wall thickness in at least some portions of the tubular member,

a plurality of openings communicating between the plurality of independent internal cavities and at least one of the luminal surface, abluminal surface, a proximal end and a distal end of the tubular member,

and at least one bioactive agent disposed in the at least one internal cavity.

6. (Amended) The endoluminal stent according to Claim 5, wherein the tubular member further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, vanadium, aluminum, nickel, tantalum, zirconium, chromium, silver, gold, silicon, magnesium, niobium, scandium, platinum, cobalt, palladium, manganese, molybdenum and alloys thereof, including zirconium-titanium-tantalum alloys, nitinol, and stainless steel.

7. (Amended) The endoluminal stent according to Claim 6, wherein the bioactive agent further comprises a pharmacologically active agent selected from the group consisting of antibiotic drugs, antiviral drugs, neoplastic agents, steroids, fibronectin, anti-clotting drugs, anti-platelet function drugs, drugs which prevent smooth muscle cell growth on inner surface wall of vessel, heparin, heparin fragments, aspirin, coumadin, tissue plasminogen activator, urokinase, hirudin, streptokinase, antiproliferative agents, methotrexate, cisplatin, fluorouracil, adriamycin), antioxidant agents, ascorbic acid, beta carotene, vitamin E, antimetabolites, thromboxane inhibitors, non-steroidal and steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, immunosuppresents, rapomycin,

beta and calcium channel blockers, genetic materials including DNA and RNA fragments, complete expression genes, antibodies, lymphokines, growth factors, vascular growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, prostaglandins, leukotrienes, laminin, elastin, collagen, nitric oxide, and integrins.

8. (Amended) An endoluminal stent, comprising:

a cylindrical member comprised of a plurality of structural elements defining walls of the cylindrical member,

a plurality of discontinuous interior cavities traversing the length of at least some of the plurality of structural elements,

a plurality of openings communicating between each of the plurality of discontinuous interior cavities and external the stent,

and at least one bioactive agent disposed within the plurality of discontinuous interior cavities.

9. (Amended) The endoluminal stent according to Claim 8, wherein the cylindrical member further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, vanadium, aluminum, nickel, tantalum, zirconium, chromium, silver, gold, silicon, magnesium, niobium, scandium, platinum, cobalt, palladium, manganese, molybdenum and alloys thereof, including zirconium-titanium-tantalum alloys, nitinol, and stainless steel.

10. (Amended) The endoluminal stent according to Claim 9, wherein the bioactive agent further comprises a pharmacologically active agent selected from the group consisting of antibiotic drugs, antiviral drugs, neoplastic agents, steroids, fibronectin, anti-clotting drugs, anti-platelet function drugs, drugs which prevent smooth muscle cell growth on inner surface wall of vessel, heparin, heparin fragments, aspirin, coumadin, tissue plasminogen activator, urokinase, hirudin, streptokinase, antiproliferative agents, methotrexate, cisplatin, fluorouracil, adriamycin, antioxidant agents, ascorbic acid, beta carotene, vitamin E, antimetabolites, thromboxane inhibitors, non-steroidal and steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, immunosuppresents, rapomycin, beta and calcium channel blockers, genetic materials including DNA and RNA fragments,

complete expression genes, antibodies, lymphokines, growth factors, vascular growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, prostaglandins, leukotrienes, laminin, elastin, collagen, nitric oxide, and integrins.

12. (Amended) The endoluminal stent according to Claim 16, wherein the endoluminal stent is fabricated by vapor deposition of at least one metal.

13. (Amended) The endoluminal stent according to Claim 12, wherein the at least one metal is selected the group consisting of titanium, vanadium, aluminum, nickel, tantalum, zirconium, chromium, silver, gold, silicon, magnesium, niobium, scandium, platinum, cobalt, palladium, manganese, molybdenum and alloys thereof, including zirconium-titanium-tantalum alloys, nitinol, and stainless steel.

14. (Amended) The endoluminal stent according to Claim 16, wherein the bioactive agent further comprises a pharmacologically active agent selected from the group consisting of antibiotic drugs, antiviral drugs, neoplastic agents, steroids, fibronectin, anti-clotting drugs, anti-platelet function drugs, drugs which prevent smooth muscle cell growth on inner surface wall of vessel, heparin, heparin fragments, aspirin, coumadin, tissue plasminogen activator, urokinase, hirudin, streptokinase, antiproliferative agents, methotrexate, cisplatin, fluorouracil, adriamycin, antioxidant agents, ascorbic acid, beta carotene, vitamin E, antimetabolites, thromboxane inhibitors, non-steroidal and steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, immunosuppresents, rapomycin, beta and calcium channel blockers, genetic materials including DNA and RNA fragments, complete expression genes, antibodies, lymphokines, growth factors, vascular growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, prostaglandins, leukotrienes, laminin, elastin, collagen, nitric oxide, and integrins.

--15. (New) An implantable body, comprising:

a structural body having a three-dimensional conformation, a plurality of exterior surfaces and a thickness thereto, at least one internal cavity residing within the thickness of the structural body,

at least two of a plurality of openings communicating between the at least one internal cavity and at least two of the plurality of exterior surfaces,

at least one bioactive agent disposed in the at least one internal cavity, the at least one bioactive agent being releasable from the at least one internal cavity through the at least two of a plurality of openings upon implantation of the structural body into a body in need thereof.

16. (New) An endoluminal stent for delivering a bioactive agent to a situs in a body, comprising:

a plurality of interconnected structural elements forming a radially expandable generally tubular member, at least some of the plurality of structural elements having a wall thickness comprising a first layer and a second layer covering the first layer,

a void space intermediate the first and second layers and enclosed therebetween,

a plurality of pores passing through at least one of the first and second layers communicating with the void space and

at least one bioactive agent retained within the void space and elutable through the plurality of pores.

17. (New) The implantable body according to claim 15, further comprising a degradable plug disposed within at least some of the plurality of openings to prohibit release of the at least one bioactive agent until degradation of the degradable plug.

18. (New) The endoluminal stent according to claim 5, further comprising a degradable plug disposed within at least some of the plurality of openings to prohibit release of the at least one bioactive agent until degradation of the degradable plug.

19. (New) The endoluminal stent according to claim 8, further comprising a degradable plug disposed within at least some of the plurality of openings to prohibit release of the at least one bioactive agent until degradation of the degradable plug.

20. (New) The endoluminal stent according to claim 16, further comprising a degradable plug disposed within at least some of the plurality of pores to prohibit release of the at least one bioactive agent until degradation of the degradable plug.

21. (New) An implantable medical device, comprising:

a geometrically deformable structural body having a three-dimensional conformation and a thickness thereto, the structural body having a first and second structural region, one of the first and second structural region being adapted to undergo relatively lower strain during geometric deformation of the structural body,

at least one internal cavity residing within the thickness of the structural body,

at least one of a plurality of openings communicating between the at least one internal cavity and external to the structural body, the at least one of a plurality of openings positioned along an exterior area of one of the first or second structural region that undergo relatively lower strain during geometric deformation of the implantable stent device, and

at least one bioactive agent disposed in the at least one internal cavity, the at least one bioactive agent capable of being released from within the at least one internal cavity through the at least one of a plurality of openings, upon implantation of the structural body into a body in need thereof.

22. (New) The implantable medical device according to claim 21, wherein the geometrically deformable structural body further comprises a plurality of interconnected individual structural elements, each of the plurality of interconnected individual structural elements having the at least one internal cavity, the at least one of a plurality of openings and the at least one bioactive agent therein.

23. (New) The implantable medical device according to claim 21, wherein the geometrically deformable structural body further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, vanadium, aluminum, nickel, tantalum, zirconium, chromium, silver, gold, silicon, magnesium, niobium, scandium, platinum, cobalt, palladium, manganese,

molybdenum and alloys thereof, such as zirconium-titanium-tantalum alloys, nitinol, and stainless steel.

24. (New) The implantable medical device according to claim 21, wherein the bioactive agent further comprises a pharmacologically active agent selected from the group consisting of antibiotic drugs, antiviral drugs, neoplastic agents, steroids, fibronectin, anti-clotting drugs, anti-platelet function drugs, drugs which prevent smooth muscle cell growth on inner surface wall of vessel, heparin, heparin fragments, aspirin, coumadin, tissue plasminogen activator, urokinase, hirudin, streptokinase, antiproliferative agents, methotrexate, cisplatin, fluorouracil, adriamycin), antioxidant agents, ascorbic acid, beta carotene, vitamin E, antimetabolites, thromboxane inhibitors, non-steroidal and steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, immunosuppresents, rapomycin, beta and calcium channel blockers, genetic materials including DNA and RNA fragments, complete expression genes, antibodies, lymphokines, growth factors, vascular growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, prostaglandins, leukotrienes, laminin, elastin, collagen, nitric oxide, and integrins.

25. (New) The implantable medical device according to claim 21, further comprising a degradable plug residing within the at least one of a plurality of openings to prohibit release of the at least one bioactive agent until the degradation of the degradable plug.—

In the drawings:

Please amend Fig. 8 according to the newly provided Fig. 8, circled in red ink, with amendments in red ink.

Please amend Fig. 6 according to the newly provided Fig. 6, circled in red ink, which shows the deletion of reference number 39 as indicated by the crossed-out circle in red ink.